

#### Natural Resource Development

- a. Our laws and legal system are weighted against encouraging responsible resource development
- b. Permitting often takes too long
- c. Once a company has a permit, they get sued at every possible step of the process
  - i. The people who sue aren't concerned about HOW the development is done, they don't want ANY development
  - ii. These obstructionists have no viable plans to create jobs or fund our schools
- d. Montanans are very supportive of natural resource development according to a November 2010 poll of 600 Montana likely voters
  - i. 83% say the state government should actively encourage and promote more timber harvesting
  - ii. 79% say the state government should actively encourage and promote more oil & gas development
  - iii. 73% say the state government should actively encourage and promote more mining
  - iv. 73% say the state government should actively encourage and promote more coal development
- e. SOLUTIONS:
  - i. The Montana Environmental Protection Act should be reformed to take away the ability of extreme environmental groups to sue to stop projects
  - ii. The state government needs to change the way it thinks to where it actively encourages these industries

#### Small Business

- a. 97% of businesses in Montana are small businesses
- b. When state government passes new regulations or state agencies develop new rules, they impact small businesses greatly
- c. Small businesses often don't have HR directors, or lawyers to help comply with new, costly regulation
- d. SOLUTION: The state government and agencies should be required to study impacts to small businesses before it passes new regulation

#### Business Equipment Taxes

- a. The business equipment tax (BET) is a tax on the tools of production
- b. The BET is a tax of the past - it's like an annual
- c. It discourages businesses from buying newer, better, safer, greener equipment
- d. It hurts certain kinds of industry like agriculture, tech, manufacturing, etc...
- e. SOLUTION:
  - i. The rate should be lowered and/or the \$20,000 threshold should be raised and made a true exemption
  - ii. Local governments should be reimbursed for lost revenue

#### Anti-Business Bills

- a. If a bill doesn't help improve our business climate and create jobs, don't pass it.